

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 028491

EXDIS - FOR AMB YOUNG

FOL RPT ROME 1939 ACTION SECSTATE INFO CAPE TOWN PRETORIA
ZANZIBAR 7 FEB QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 1939

EXDIS

FROM AMBASSADOR LODGE'S OFFICE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, XA, VT

SUBJECT: CATHOLICS AND INTEGRATION

REF: ZANZIBAR 0055

1. WE ENDORSE AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S SUGGESTION CONTAINED REFTEL.
2. POPE PAUL HAS INDEED ENCOURAGED CATHOLIC HIERARCHY IN AFRICA AND PARTICULARLY IN SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA TO SPEAK UP AGAINST RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND TO ENGAGE IN ACTIVITIES FOR SOCIAL
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JUSTICE. POPE HAS STEADFASTLY SUPPORTED BISHOP LAMONT IN RHODESIA AND HAS PUBLICLY PRAISED BISHOP'S UNEQUIVOCAL STAND AGAINST RACIST POLICIES OF GOR. (BISHOP IS CURRENTLY APPEALING 10-YEAR JAIL SENTENCE FOR NOT INFORMING RHODESIAN POLICE AUTHORITIES OF WHEREABOUTS OF AFRICAN GUERRILLAS. APPEAL WILL BE FORMALLY HEARD FEBRUARY 14.) POPE ALSO HAS INCREASED NUMBER OF AFRICAN BISHOPS AND ROMAN COLLEGE OF CARDINALS NOW HAS TEN NATIVE-BORN

AFRICANS.

3. WE UNDERSTAND ALSO THAT THE ANGLICAN CHURCH IS PLANNING TO END RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN ITS SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS, BUT UNLIKE THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, IT HOPES TO OBTAIN GOVERNMENT SANCTION FIRST. OUR ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE ACTIONS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH COULD THEREFORE BE CATALYTIC. FOR THIS PURPOSE, IN ADDITION TO SENDING LETTER TO POPE PAUL, THE PRESIDENT MAY WISH AUTHORIZE AMBASSADOR YOUNG TO MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF CATHOLIC CHURCH ACTION DURING HIS CURRENT TOUR OF AFRICA.

4. FROM OUR VANTAGE POINT, MESSAGE WOULD BE BETTER RECEIVED BY POPE IF CAST IN LARGER CONTEXT AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: YOUR HOLINESS:

VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE HAS CONVEYED TO ME YOUR GOOD WISHES AND ENCOURAGEMENT FOR OUR POLICY TO PROMOTE PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION. IN THANKING YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS IN RECEIVING MR. MONDALE, I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO REITERATE HIS STATEMENT THAT YOUR STRONG MESSAGE OF JUSTICE, FREEDOM, COMPASION AND PEACE WILL FORM THE CENTERPIECE OF MY GOVERNMENT.

WE SHALL ENDEAVOR TO MAKE OUR POSITION FOR JUSTICE, PEACE AND MORAL WORKS FOR MANKIND THE JOINT UNDERTAKING OF ALL MEN OF GOOD WILL. IT IS IN THIS SPIRIT THAT I VIEW YOUR ENCOURAGEMENT OF EFFORTS TO END RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN THE CONTINENT OF AFRICA. I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT WE APPLAUD THE EFFORTS TO END RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN CHURCH SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS IN SOUTH AFRICA. SPECIFICALLY, THE CURRENT ACTION OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN SOUTH AFRICA IS A HEARTENING EXAMPLE TO ALL OF US WHO WANT TO SEE AN END TO RACIAL DISCRIMINATION THERE.

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END QUOTE.BEAUDRY

UNQUOTE VANCE

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